

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman's written request will be granted.

There was no objection.

#### GENE DARNELL

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will attend and participate in a funeral for a long-time friend from my home area, former sheriff Gene Darnell, one of Missouri's truly outstanding law enforcement officers.

It is with sadness that I report his loss, which is a great loss to our State.

#### VOTE AGAINST THE TAX-CUT PROPOSAL

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I also wish to add that were I here tomorrow, I would be speaking and voting against the tax cut proposal. It is important that we in this House protect our farmers, strengthen our armed forces, preserve Social Security and Medicare, and invest in our schools and eliminate the Federal debt.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned we are getting the cart before the horse. We need a budget before we can make this important decision.

#### TAX CUTS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, unlike the Soviet Union or the old kings of Europe, this country has always believed in limited government; but some here in Washington, D.C. seem to have changed their minds about that. Over the next 10 years we are going to collect more than \$5.5 trillion more than we need. That is almost an unbelievable amount of money. It is more than we need to pay off our public debt, shore up Social Security, fix Medicare, implement the President's education plan, and cover just about every other reasonable expense we have. Even then we will have more than \$2.5 trillion left over.

It is almost unbelievable that some in this body think we should keep that money in the Treasury until we can find something else to spend it on. This money is not the government's money. We are not supposed to take more than we need. We are supposed to be legislators, not thieves. We need to give this money back to the taxpayers who paid it. We need to pass the President's tax cut plan, and we should do it quickly.

#### DEFICIT-BUSTING TAX CUT IS WRONG

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, during previous Congresses, I made many tough votes to balance our Federal budget with balanced priorities: I voted for the 1993 Clinton budget; I voted for Penny-Kasich, the first bipartisan effort to cut spending significantly; I voted for a constitutional amendment to balance our budget; and I voted for the 1997 balanced budget.

For my efforts, I received the Concord Coalition Deficit Hawk Award and four very close election victories. I have paid my dues on this issue, and I believe my votes have benefited all our constituents.

I rise today because tomorrow's vote on the first installment of a deficit-busting tax cut is wrong. It would benefit my family and me, but it is wrong. We need a budget first to make certain we pass tax cuts we can afford. We need a budget first to make certain we will pay off our debts in this decade, the best tax cut for all Americans.

#### CUT TAXES NOW

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, taxes today are at an all-time high as a percentage of our economy. The fact is the Federal Government is currently sucking up more of the American economy than it took to win World War II. That is simply wrong.

But that is not all. At the same time the Federal budget is running record-level surpluses, we are also experiencing the largest tax overpayment in history. That is not only wrong, it must be changed as soon as possible.

Tomorrow is the opportunity. Tomorrow, we consider H.R. 3, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001. This bill will increase fairness in the Tax Code, allow every American income taxpayer to keep more of their own money and provide support to our economy at the same time.

This is a historic opportunity. It is a proper reaction. It is the right thing to do, and I hope Members on both sides of the aisle will join me in voting for this responsible and much-needed tax relief.

#### CONGRESS SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT NARCOTICS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, every major city in America is experiencing booming heroin sales. Kids with eyes watering and noses running are running the streets and are dangerous. Now, if that is not enough to scare the

welcome wagon, our borders are wide open. Wide open big time.

While Congress is building halfway houses, narcoterrorists are coming across the border and treating it like a speed bump. Beam me up.

I yield back the fact that we are wasting billions and billions of dollars on a failed narcotics policy that could provide for a prescription drug program for every senior in America. Wise up Congress and let us really do something about narcotics.

#### TAX RELIEF FOR EVERYONE

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the surplus means it is time for immediate across-the-board tax relief for all taxpayers to boost our economy, create jobs, and give Americans more confidence by returning some of their surplus taxes to help them get through these uncertain times. We need to cut taxes for every American, especially low-income families.

President Bush's tax plan will get the tax surplus out of Washington and back into the pockets of working men and women. The Republican Congress has united behind it. It is time that Americans get tax relief, sooner rather than later.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is going to take in about \$28 trillion in taxes over the next 10 years. We are proposing to give back \$1.6 trillion. That is about 6 pennies out of every dollar. That is not a whole lot. We are saying that taxpayers should take this money and buy their kids school clothes, buy appliances for their homes, use it to pay utility bills, to help their house payment or their car loan.

Mr. Speaker, this money belongs to the American taxpayers. We need to give it back to them.

#### BUDGET SHOULD BE AGREED UPON BEFORE TAX BILL IS DEBATED

(Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this, my maiden speech in the House of Representatives, to protest the policy conceived in haste, offered without consultation, and prosecuted almost without discussion.

The question before us is not whether a \$2 trillion tax cut is a good idea or a bad one, nor is it whether a tax cut is consistent with our acknowledged duties to protect Social Security and Medicare and to invest more resources in an increasingly burdened military.